2008-05198/

News Release

Canadian Short Track Team Competes at World University Games

Torino, Italy (January 26, 2007) – After completing National Team Trials at noon on Saturday, 10 Canadian short track skaters travelled to Toronto to start an all-night trip to Torino, Italy to compete in the World University Games. The grueling travel schedule took a toll with Anne Maltais of Quebec, the only Canadian able to win a bronze medal.

Yellowknife's Michael Gilday proceeded through the competition the farthest for the Canadian men, qualifying for the final in the 3000 and finishing 7th. The men's relay team was in position to win the bronze medal in the 5000 relay when the ice broke from beneath a Canadian skater in a corner causing him to fall and take an Italian with him, leading to team disqualification. In the women's relay, a slip at the finish line cost the Canadians the silver medal.

Dominated by the Koreans, the University Games were used by Speed Skating Canada as an opportunity to increase international experience for the young skaters. "It was the most incredible experience," said Gilday. "There were over 8000 Italian fans screaming so loud you couldn't hear the coaches and couldn't even communicate with team mates during the relay. It was fantastic!"

All of the Canadian skaters will compete next at the Team Trials #3 (March 9-11 in Montreal), which are used for final selection of the 2007-08 National Team.

For more information, contact:
NWT Speed Skating
(867) 873-6024

CANADIAN NORTH NorthwesTel Bell